

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:33
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
INTEREST RATES FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to lower interest rates for the agricultural sector and provide cheaper farm inputs in view of the growing distress of the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a Corpus Fund for the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the composition of the fund;
- (e) whether the Government has also set up/proposes to set up special zones for the farmers;
- (f) if so, the details and locations thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 33 DUE FOR REPLY ON 13TH AUGUST, 2007.

(a) & (b): In the Budget speech for 2006-07, the Union Finance Minister had announced the Government's decision to ensure provision of crop loans to farmers at the rate of interest at 7% p.a. with an upper limit of Rs.3 lakh on principal amount. This policy came into force with effect from Kharif 2006-07 and has been continued for the year 2007-08 also. Government is already subsidizing other major inputs like Fertilizers and Seeds.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): No, Sir.

(f) & (g): Do not arise.